

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -  
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules  
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202  
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,  
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,  
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

Current FCC rules are already a disgrace in their failure to restrain corporate and political control of the minds of our nations• citizens. This is intolerable and extremely dangerous in the world•s most powerful democracy, particularly at this critical moment in history. How can any person or agency claim to believe in democracy and persist in the loss of the fairness doctrine of equal time? How can elections be free while Will Rogers spins in his grave as his almost innocent jibe of having the best government money can buy has become a grotesque and hazardous nightmare?

Democracy demands a free market in facts and commentary with competition and diversity if it is to survive and prosper.

I urge you to tell FCC Chairman Michael Powell and the other Commissioners to stop their plans to end critical safeguards designed to help ensure diversity of media ownership. Under the FCC plans, one company in a community will be able to own the newspaper, several TV and radio stations, the cable system, and the principal Internet access company. There will be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide. I urge you to also call on the FCC to ensure there are public hearings to discuss how such proposals will affect my community and the nation.

All of this is bad for competition, the First Amendment and democracy.

Please let me know what leadership you have and will take on this urgent matter.

In it's goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the

FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have an open, informed discussion from a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The rarified, lawyerly atmosphere of an FCC rulemaking is not an appropriate decision-making venue when questions as profound as the freedom of our media are at stake. I encourage the Commissioners to come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, but a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Sincerely,  
Bob K. Bogen